

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination of the captioned application is respectfully requested.

A. SUMMARY OF THIS AMENDMENT

By the current amendment, Applicants basically:

1. Amend claim 92 to correct a misspelling.
2. Amend claim 94.
3. Respectfully traverse all prior art rejections (see Section B infra).

B. PATENTABILITY OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 94 corresponds with [Embodiment 4] and Figs. 24 to 26. Specifically, as illustrated in Fig. 25(b) and Fig. 26(b), the lighting system according to claim 94 includes (i) converting means 253/273 disposed on a light incident surface 254a of a planar light guiding body 254 and (ii) a light source unit 263, disposed on an end surface 254g opposing to the light incident surface 254a, for emitting light in dot emitting state.

In the planar light guiding body 254, a cyclic structure 104f which is an asymmetric prism is formed, and the cyclic structure 104f includes a propagating portion 104d and a reflecting portion 104e (See Fig. 4(b) and the specification, page 65).

The cyclic structure 104f has (i) a function of converting light emitted in the dot emitting state from the light source unit 263 into sufficiently divergent light by the time it reaches the converting means 253/273 (See Fig. 26(b) and the specification, pill) and (ii) a function of converting, into a planarly emitting state, light from the light incident surface 254a, that is, light having been converted into a linearly emitting state by the converting means 253/254.

With the foregoing structure, it is possible to evenly emit light in the planarly emitting state without fluctuation in the brightness.

The aforementioned structure according to claim 94 is different from structures disclosed in Hatazawa and Broer in terms of the following points.

Figs. 1A, 1B, 3A, 3B, 6, 7, 8A, 8B, 9-16, 18, and 19 of Hatazawa and in Figs. 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 of Broer, illustrate periodical structures that are symmetrically formed. These arrangements do not have (i) the function of converting light from the light source unit into sufficiently divergent light by the time it reaches the diffusion means and (ii) the function of converting light from the diffusion means into the planarly emitting state.

Furthermore, in structures disclosed in Fig. 24 and Fig. 17 of Hatazawa, and in Fig. 4 of Broer, positional relationship between a light source and a reflecting surface are set such that the reflecting surface reflects light from the light source. Therefore, these arrangements do not have (i) the function of converting light from the light source unit into sufficiently divergent light by the time it reaches the diffusion means and (ii) the function of converting light from the diffusion means into the planarly emitting state.

In the above-mentioned structures, it is difficult to sufficiently restrain fluctuation in the brightness.

C. MISCELLANEOUS

In view of the foregoing and other considerations, all claims are deemed in condition for allowance. A formal indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

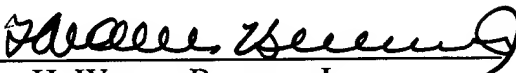
SUMIDA et al.

Appl. No. 09/856,657

Should the Examiner feel that an interview with the undersigned would facilitate allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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